



AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY

MEPS+HCUP DATA USERS' WORKSHOP TWO-DAY COMPUTER HANDS-ON

AHRQ CONFERENCE CENTER
Rockville, MD

SEPTEMBER 24-25, 2008

Workshop Description.....	2
Workshop at-a-glance	4
Registration Form	5
Workshop Logistical Fact Sheet.....	7

**AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY
MEPS+HCUP DATA USERS' WORKSHOP
TWO-DAY COMPUTER HANDS-ON**

**AHRQ CONFERENCE CENTER
Rockville, MD
SEPTEMBER 24-25, 2008**

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

AHRQ is conducting a two-day workshop for health services researchers interested in two of the Agency's data resources—the Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) and the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey Household Component (MEPS-HC). Both data resources contain national and State health care data. Participants will learn about both data resources, gain technical experience on their choice of either HCUP or MEPS, and pursue specific research and policy questions of interest to them.

The workshop will be held at the AHRQ Conference Center in the Eisenberg Building, located at 540 Gaither Road in Rockville, Maryland. The workshop can accommodate a maximum of 50 participants. Registration information is provided at the end of this document.

Purpose

The purpose of the workshop is to provide an overview of the HCUP databases and software tools, and the MEPS-HC public use medical expenditures and conditions data files. Additionally, attendees will receive hands-on training on either HCUP or MEPS. Practical information and experience with the data files will be provided. A computer will be available for each participant for the hands-on training portion of the course. For HCUP, participants will work with subsets of the HCUP databases to produce health care statistics. For MEPS, there will be an opportunity to construct analytic files using the MEPS-HC with the assistance of AHRQ staff.

Who should attend?

This workshop is designed for health services researchers and analysts who are interested in learning about two valuable AHRQ-sponsored health care resources, HCUP and MEPS. Individuals interested in national, regional, State, and/or local health care analyses or clinical research would benefit from this workshop. Given the nature and pace of this course, attendees selecting hands-on training in HCUP should have some prior familiarity with health care administrative data and SAS. Attendees selecting hands-on training in MEPS should have some prior exposure to MEPS and be able to use SAS.

Workshop format

First day of the workshop will provide an instructional overview of both HCUP and MEPS. Day 2 will offer simultaneous, hands-on technical training of each resource. Participants must indicate on the registration form their course preference (MEPS or HCUP) for the day two hands-on training.

Program description and requirements for HCUP

Attendees should review the on-line HCUP overview course prior to the workshop (<http://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/overviewcourse.jsp>). This interactive, modular course provides an overview of the HCUP data, software tools, and related products.

Day 1: Orientation to the HCUP databases and related products, including HCUPnet. This orientation will provide an overview of the five main types of HCUP databases and information on the pilot version of the new national emergency department database. Additionally, information on related software tools and research products will be presented—including a demonstration of HCUPnet, a free on-line querying tool that provides instant access to HCUP data. Instructional and reference materials will be distributed and discussed.

Day 2: Hands-on exposure to HCUP data by applying research methods to produce meaningful, accurate health care information. This segment of the workshop will provide attendees with hands-on experience with several HCUP databases and related tools. Attendees will be given computers loaded with subsets of the HCUP Nationwide Inpatient Sample (NIS), Kids' Inpatient Database (KID), State Inpatient Database (SID), and State Emergency Department Database (SEDD).

Faculty will provide step-by-step instruction on working with these databases to produce national, regional, state, and local level health care estimates. This workshop will provide attendees with training on the basics of loading the data to more advanced examples of weighting the data and calculating variance estimates. The course will conclude with information on applying the AHRQ Quality Indicators to HCUP data. Faculty will be available to consult with attendees on how HCUP data can support their research interests.

Program description and requirements for MEPS

All participants should read the MEPS Workbook (available on the MEPS Web site, http://www.meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/about_meps/online_workbook.jsp) prior to attending the workshop. The MEPS Workbook provides concise information about the HC survey design and file content. All work on the PCs will be conducted in SAS. Because the main purpose of the MEPS portion of the workshop is to provide participants an opportunity to construct analytic files, participants should have a working knowledge of SAS. In order to maximize the time available for file construction using the MEPS, it will be helpful to participants if they review the MEPS data file documentation and codebooks (also available on the MEPS Web site) prior to the workshop.

Day 1: Orientation to the MEPS medical expenditures and conditions data products. This orientation will consist of lectures on practical information about the database construction, survey design, file content, and the construction of analytic files by data users and the knowledge necessary to formulate research plans utilizing the various MEPS-HC files and linkage capabilities. Instructional and reference materials will be distributed and discussed as necessary.

Day 2: Hands-on construction of data files on the computers. This part of the workshop is dedicated to hands-on manipulation of MEPS data, including file construction, generating estimates, or/and finding answers to their own questions regarding health care expenditures and utilization. All 2005 full-year public use data files will be available on each participant's PC. (Please note that non-public use MEPS data will not be available at the workshop.) The MEPS survey instrument will also be available electronically. Participants, who prefer hard copies of these materials, can download them from the MEPS Web site and bring them to the workshop. Some exercises will be available for better understanding of the MEPS data. Those participants who are already working with MEPS data for their research projects are encouraged to bring their analytical files in order to receive help from workshop staff.

AHRQ staff will be onsite to answer questions and provide programming assistance.

Contact information

For program questions or to request any special accessibility requirements (sign interpretation, wheelchair ramp access, etc.), e-mail:

workshopinfo@ahrq.gov

**MEPS+HCUP DATA USERS' WORKSHOP
TWO-DAY COMPUTER HANDS-ON**

**AHRQ CONFERENCE CENTER
Rockville, MD
SEPTEMBER 24-25, 2008**

Workshop at-a-glance:

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Registration
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	Introduction and MEPS Lectures
12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch (on your own)
1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	HCUP Lectures

Thursday, September 25, 2008

HCUP:

8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	Introduction / HCUP Day Two Overview
8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	HCUPnet Demonstration
9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Break
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	Hands-on with the national HCUP Databases
12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch (on your own)
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Hands-on with the State HCUP Databases
2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Break
2:45 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Quality Indicator Demonstration
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Consultation with Experts on Registrant Research Topics

or

MEPS:

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Introduction to MEPS Data Tools
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	SAS Exercises
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	Hands-on Computer Lab
12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch (on your own)
1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Hands-on Computer Lab

Registration fee: No charge

Registration deadline: September 12, 2008 (or when the maximum number is reached)

Please e-mail, fax, or mail completed registration form (both pages), to:

Diana Brown
Social & Scientific Systems, Inc.
Support Contractor to the AHRQ
8757 Georgia Avenue, 12th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Telephone: 301-628-3118
Fax: 301-628-3101
E-mail: dbrown@s-3.com

**AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY
MEPS+HCUP DATA USERS' WORKSHOP
SEPTEMBER 24-25, 2008
REGISTRATION FORM**

Please print or type the information directly into this form.

Name: _____
last, first, middle initial (include degrees for printed list of participants)

Title: _____

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____ FAX: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Please indicate any special accessibility requirements (e.g., accommodation for impaired mobility, sign interpreter):

Registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis with a maximum of 50 participants. In order to attend the hands-on training on Day 2, participants must attend the lecture on Day 1 of the workshop. Acceptance notification will be via e-mail.

AHRQ is offering this workshop free of charge to participants. Please be considerate and do not reserve a space unless you actually plan to attend.

In order to accommodate the needs of all workshop participants, please provide the following information to assist in planning the workshop:

Please indicate your preference for Day 2 (September 25) of the workshop:

MEPS_____ OR HCUP _____

If attending Day 2 MEPS training:

1. SAS is the only statistical package available for the MEPS hands-on portion of the workshop. Please indicate your level of proficiency using that statistical software

Expert: _____ Intermediate: _____ Beginner: _____

2. Indicate your familiarity and experience using MEPS database:

Advanced user: _____

Intermediate user (some MEPS data experience): _____

Beginner (no MEPS data experience): _____

If attending Day 2 HCUP training:

3. Indicate your familiarity and experience using HCUP databases

Advanced user: _____

Intermediate user (some HCUP data experience): _____

Beginner (no HCUP data experience): _____

We want to have the appropriate staff available for your questions. Please describe, in some detail, your research and/or analytic interests in using MEPS data or HCUP data (depending on your Day 2 training selection):

4. For our information purposes, please indicate if you can use other statistical software (specify):

**AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY
MEPS+HCUP DATA USERS' WORKSHOP**

LOGISTICAL FACT SHEET

**Please print or save a copy of this fact sheet as this document
would be removed from the website after registration is closed.**

Location: AHRQ Conference Center
540 Gaither Road
Rockville, MD 20850-6649
Telephone: 301-427-1406
Fax: 301-427-1276

For security purposes, please be prepared to show a photo ID to enter the AHRQ facility.

Participants are responsible for their own travel arrangements, hotel accommodations, and meals. There is a break room at AHRQ with vending machines. You will receive directions to places for lunch either within walking distance or via the AHRQ shuttle. For further details on AHRQ building location and map, please visit: <http://www.ahrq.gov/about/map.htm>.

Hotel Accommodations: There are many hotels within a 1-mile radius of the AHRQ building that can be found by searching on the Internet. Some local hotels offer shuttle service to the nearby Shady Grove Metro station and may also offer shuttle service from your hotel to AHRQ. Confirm shuttle arrangements when making hotel reservations.

Ground Transportation: If you take **METRO** (the subway system for the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area), the free AHRQ shuttle leaves from the Shady Grove station during the morning at :15 and :45 minutes past the hour starting at 6:45 a.m. and will bring you directly to the AHRQ building. To reach the AHRQ shuttle, turn **left** after exiting the Metro fare gates at the Shady Grove station, go up the escalator—the shuttle will park to your immediate right. If you take Metrobus instead of the AHRQ shuttle, take the route 63 or 66 bus from the Shady Grove station. The AHRQ building is located across the parking lot from the Market Place store at the corner of Redland and Gaither Roads.

If you drive, **pay parking** is available at the AHRQ building. The lot is accessible only through the entrance on Gaither Road. Maximum daily cost is \$4.

Driving Directions: **From Baltimore:** Take I-95 South to I-495 West. Then follow directions from Prince George's County.

From Prince George's County: Take I-495 West (toward Bethesda) to the I-270 North exit. Take I-270 North to Shady Grove Road East (Exit 8) and immediately bear right to Redland Boulevard. Continue on Redland Boulevard through the traffic light and turn right into the Redland Center parking lot.

From Virginia and South: Take I-495 North to the I-270 North exit. Take I-270 North to Shady Grove Road East (Exit 8), and immediately bear right to Redland Boulevard. Continue on Redland Boulevard through the traffic light and turn right into the Redland Center parking lot.

From Route 355 North (Rockville Pike): Turn left on Redland Boulevard and turn left at the intersection of Redland Boulevard and Gaither Road. From Gaither Road, turn right into the Redland Center parking lot.

From Route 355 South (Rockville Pike): Turn right on Redland Boulevard and turn left at the intersection of Redland Boulevard and Gaither Road. From Gaither Road, turn right into the Redland Center parking lot.

From Frederick County: Take I-270 South to Shady Grove Road East (Exit 8). Travel east about .6 miles and turn right on Gaither Road. Travel south and cross Redland Boulevard. From Gaither Road, turn right into the Redland Center parking lot.

From Hubert H. Humphrey Building: Go West on Independence Avenue SW (toward Washington Avenue SW). Turn left onto ramp. Stay straight to 9th Street SW. Take I-395 South ramp (toward Virginia) and merge onto I-395 (toward Richmond). Take George Washington Memorial Parkway North (Exit 10C, toward Arlington Cemetery). Take I-495 North (toward Maryland). Follow directions from Virginia and South.

Shuttle/Taxi Services from Airports:

From **Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA)**, **Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD)**, and **Baltimore Washington Thurgood Marshall International Airport (BWI)**:

- **SuperShuttle** 1-800-BLUE VAN (1-800-258-3826): Reservations should be made **in advance**.
- **The Airport Shuttle** 1-800-776-0323 or 410-381-2772: Reservations should be made **in advance**.
- **Taxicab:** Taxis are readily available outside the baggage claim areas of all local airports.

A direct trip from any of the three airports takes approximately 1 hour depending on traffic. Allow slightly more time to/from BWI and slightly less to/from DCA.

Metro Subway Services:

Metro farecards are magnetic cards purchased from machines located at the entrance to each station. The fares between stations are listed at the station entrance. Farecards can be purchased for any amount of money up to \$20.

From **Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA)**: Board the Metro **Yellow Line** going toward the *Mount Vernon Square–7th St-Convention Center* station. Transfer at the *Gallery Place-Chinatown* station to the **Red Line** going toward *Shady Grove*. Exit at the *Shady Grove* station. Travel time is approximately 1 hour and 20 minutes.

From **Union Station/Amtrak**: Board the Metro **Red Line** toward *Shady Grove* and exit at the *Shady Grove* station. Travel time is approximately 50 minutes.

Once at the Shady Grove station, follow the directions provided in the Ground Transportation section above for free AHRQ shuttle service directions to the AHRQ Eisenberg Office Building.

An interactive map of the Metro subway system that allows you to click on any station name for information about that station is available on the Web at <http://www.wmata.com/metro/rail/systemmap.cfm>.